

suddenly, in middle life, and then may be quickly cured. But relapses are common, for this insanity comes in "spells," and is consequently more or less intermittent. Usually ideas of negation do not appear before the second or third attack of melancholia. Sometimes they are developed upon a paretic or hysteric case. Those who suffer from them are hereditarily tainted examples of excess of moral qualities, of which the lack in others causes the latter to lead disorderly lives. The condition is present more often in women than in men, which is true of melancholia in general. Cotard does not consider insanity of negation a distinct entity, as it may exist in melancholia, hypochondria, paresis, and senile dementia, but "a psychic state common to cases of chronic anxiety."

L. F. B.

THERAPEUTICAL.

—*Therapy of Phenacetine.*—John V. Shoemaker, A.M., M.D., Philadelphia, writes as follows: Phenacetine was originally introduced into medical practice as an antipyretic, and subsequently was found to possess analgesic powers. In diseases attended by hyperexia, such as rheumatism, pneumonia, typhoid fever, and phthisis pulmonalis, phenacetine exerts a very happy effect in about half the dose of antipyrine, the ordinary dose being from 3 to 8 grains. The mortality of the typhoid fever of children has been very materially reduced by the employment of phenacetine. The fall of temperature does not occur until half an hour after the drug has been taken, and the effect continues from four to eight hours. As an antipyretic, phenacetine is considered by many good authorities as the safest and most efficient member of the aniline group. In epidemic influenza, phenacetine rapidly relieves the muscular pains and favors diaphoresis; the catarrhal symptoms subsequently require other remedies.

In ordinary colds, one or two 5-grain pills of phenacetine remove all symptoms. The combination of salol (or salophen) with phenacetine is especially useful in influenza and rheumatism.

The analgesic effects of phenacetine are very marked in various forms of headache, including migraine and the headaches from eye-strain, having the advantage over antipyrine in not so frequently causing a rash.

In the neuralgic pains of tabes dorsalis, in herpes zoster, and intercostal neuralgia, 5-grain doses, given every hour for three or four hours, usually afford complete relief and cause sleep.

Phenacetine is extremely useful in chronic neuritis, and, according to Kater, is unsurpassed in the treatment of cerebral disorder due to excessive indulgence in alcoholic drinks.

In whooping-cough, $\frac{1}{2}$ -grain doses dissolved in 10 drops of glycerine are readily taken by children, and afford prompt relief, permitting sleep, and ameliorating the attacks.

In delirium, a dose of 10 grains of phenacetine will usually afford a quiet night.

Mahnert considers phenacetine a specific in acute articular rheumatism, as it reduces fever, relieves pain, and lessens the duration of the attacks. It has been found useful in some cases of gonorrhœal rheumatism, and is worthy of more extended trial in this rebellious affection.

Given several hours before the time of the paroxysm of intermittent fever, it prevents the chill.

In insomnia from simple exhaustion, phenacetine acts admirably.—*Shoemaker*, "*Materia Medica, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics*," vol. ii.

—**Chloralamide.**—James Wood, M. D., in the "*Brooklyn Medical Journal*," April, 1892, draws the following conclusions, based upon the use of this drug in 280 cases: It is a most useful hypnotic, reliable, safe, and pleasant. It has a place as an anhidrotic in phthisis. It is superior to other drugs, because in hypnotic doses it stimulates respiration, and but slightly, if at all, influences pulse, temperature, or urinary secretion. No collateral symptoms of any consequence exist. The best hypnotic dose for an adult is forty grains. It is given preferably in an alcoholic solution just before retiring. A. F.

—**New Remedy for Exophthalmic Goitre.**—The "*France Médicale*," August 19, 1892, mentions Dieulafoy's new method of treating Basedow's disease, based purely upon analogy. In tubercular subjects, during hæmoptysis, or when this condition is feared on account of the heart's agitation (cardio-vascular erethism), ipecac is administered. Under its influence the pulse is reduced in rapidity and volume: erethism ceases, and, in consequence, hæmoptysis is arrested or prevented. The first indication in exophthalmic goitre is the same: to reduce cardio-vascular erethism. This suggested to Dieulafoy the idea of a new formula, and the result is the following pill:

Powdered Ipecac, ...	gr. .03
Powdered Digitalis (leaves), ...	gr. .02
Extract of Opium, ...	gr. .0025